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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Eduardo Cardoso de Melo GUERRA

Appln. No.: Group Art Unit: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown Examiner: Unknown

Filed: May 7, 2001

For: CLOSED CYCLONE SYSTEM HAVING A FLOW RATE DISTRIBUTOR AND USE
OF SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

7. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, wherein said system is mounted within a disengager vessel (2) of a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC).

8. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, wherein said system is mounted with a regenerator vessel (2) of a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC).

9. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the reaction zone (1) of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) is of upward flow (riser).

10. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the reaction zone (1) of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) is of downward flow (downer).

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11. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the distributor (9) is manufactured from the same material as that employed to make the cyclones.

12. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein the distributor (9) is manufactured from a different material from that employed to make the cyclones.

13. (Amended) A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, wherein said system is designed for use in fluid catalytic cracking units (FCC).

END A

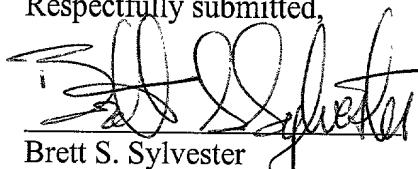
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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-14 have been amended to delete improper language or multiple dependencies. The public should be advised that the present Preliminary Amendment is not considered or intended to be a narrowing amendment surrendering any equivalents.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

7. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and or 6, wherein said system is mounted within a disengager vessel (2) of a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC).
8. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and or 6, wherein said system is mounted with a regenerator vessel (2) of a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC).
9. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, ~~7 and 8~~, wherein the reaction zone (1) of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) is of upward flow (riser).
10. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, ~~7 and 8~~, wherein the reaction zone (1) of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) is of downward flow (downer).
11. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 ~~and~~ 7, wherein the distributor (9) is manufactured from the same material as that employed to make the cyclones.
12. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, ~~and~~ 7, wherein the distributor (9) is manufactured from a different material from that employed to make the cyclones.
13. A system according to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, ~~7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12~~, wherein said system is designed for use in fluid catalytic cracking units (FCC).